

# County of Santa Clara

## Public Health Department

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### **Collaborative Effort Enhances Dental Services for HIV/AIDS Patients**

**San Jose, CA** – The Santa Clara County Public Health Department’s HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Department, together with Onsite Dental and Health Connections, has designed a new dental program to serve people with HIV/AIDS called Onsite Dental Services.

While dental services have been available for HIV clients, many ran into access and service complications, including significant co-payments, limitations on the frequency of services and locating a dentist familiar with treating HIV patients.

Onsite dentists providing the services are aware of the HIV status of the clients and have received training regarding issues, challenges and concerns in oral hygiene for HIV/AIDS patients. They also received specific instruction on potential medication interactions. In addition, Onsite is taking services to locations that are accessible and familiar to people with HIV/AIDS. Services will begin on Saturday, July 12, 2003.

Onsite Dental Services are offered exclusively to clients eligible for federal assistance under the Ryan White Act. Clients are not charged co-payments, and all regular dental services are provided - from regular cleaning to specialized dentures. The program’s funding provides the flexibility to best serve the clients by being able to add a specialist to the staff, additional service days, and more frequent services, depending on the need. With the currently scheduled service dates, the program is expected to serve 250-350 clients through February 28, 2004.

Onsite Dental Service funding has been made available through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration and the Santa Clara County Public Health Department under Title 1 of the Ryan White CARE Act of 2000 as amended.

For information on Ryan White eligibility, please contact a Health Connections Benefits Counselor at 408.961.9850.